IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: S1022/8602
Serial No.:   Unassigned
Filing Date: Herewith
For: DESIGN FLOW CHECKER

Examiner: Unassigned
Art Unit: Unassigned

Box Patent Application
Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231
Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Sir:

IN THE CLAIMS

3.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

for each data store generating a list therein containing an entry for each first dependent file in the data store, said entry including a first record having details of the first dependent file.

5.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

selecting the file locator from a file locator means which contains a plurality of file locators; and

selecting a file reader from file reader means which contain a plurality of file readers.

6.   A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined parameter comprises the date on which the data file was last modified.

7.   A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined parameter is a UNIX date stamp.

8.   A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of: identifying every said first dependent file in said data store.

9.   A method according to claim 1, wherein said data store is a data base library.

13.   A computer system according to claim 10, further comprising:

file locator means containing the plurality of file locators; and

file reader means containing the plurality of file readers.

14.   A computer system according to claim 10, wherein said predetermined parameter comprises the date on which the date file was last modified.

15.   A computer system according to claim 10, wherein said predetermined parameter is a UNIX date stamp.

16.   A computer system according to claim 10, wherein said data store is a data base library.

<div align="center">

REMARKS

</div>

This is a preliminary amendment in which the claims have been amended to place them in better form before initial examination by the Examiner. Favorable action is hereby earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By: _____
James H. Morris
Registration No.   34,681
WOLF, GREENFIELD & SACKS, P.C.
600 Atlantic Avenue
Boston, MA 02210
Tel. (617)720-3500
Attorneys for the Applicant(s)

ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NO. S1022/8602
DATE: January 24, 2001

508012.1

AMENDED CLAIMS SHOWING THE AMENDMENTS

3.   (Amended) A method according to claim 1 [or 2] further comprising the steps of:

for each data store generating a list therein containing an entry for each first dependent file in the data store, said entry including a first record having details of the first dependent file.

5.   (Amended) A method according to [any one of claims 1 to 4] claim 1 further comprising the steps of:

selecting the file locator from a file locator means which contains a plurality of file locators; and

selecting a file reader from file reader means which contain a plurality of file readers.

6.   (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined parameter comprises the date on which the data file was last modified.

7.   (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined parameter is a UNIX date stamp.

8.   (Amended) A method according to claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
identifying every said first dependent file in said data store.

9.   (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein said data store is a data base library.

13.   (Amended) A computer system according to claim 10, further comprising:
file locator means containing the plurality of file locators; and
file reader means containing the plurality of file readers.

14.   (Amended) A computer system according to claim 10, wherein said predetermined parameter comprises the date on which the date file was last modified.

508012.1

15. (Amended) A computer system according to <u>claim 10,</u> wherein said predetermined parameter is a UNIX date stamp.

16. (Amended) A computer system according to <u>claim 10,</u> wherein said data store is a data base library.